



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

June 11, 2011, 2 p.m. CDT

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

*** New Items and items with changes are listed in Red***

Nebraska State Fire Marshal Thanks Propane Industry for Cooperation with Flood Preparations

State Fire Marshal John Falgione has spent most of the past week with other state officials at the State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA. Deputies have been traveling throughout the expected flooding area checking for dangerous or potentially hazardous situations. Deputy Fire Marshalls have reported that the owners of most tanks have already proactively either secured their tanks or removed them in anticipation of the flooding.

When asked about previous situations involving flooding, State Fire Marshal Falgione responded, "While we do our best to inform owners that safety measures need to be taken, many lost tanks and product in the 1993 and 1996 flooding. These owners needed no reminders during the current situation because of their losses in the past."

The loss of a tank can also result in damage to other property when it floats into another object. Falgione commented, "While it may not be possible to remove or secure every tank in time, every one we can prevent from floating into a bridge or railroad trestle will reduce the potential loss of life and infrastructure."

Falgione also added, "I wish to thank the many industry professionals who addressed this issue well ahead of the flooding and took proactive measures before Deputies got to their area. It helped save valuable time and resources during this emergency. When a deputy is able to do a quick check and move on to other locations, it helps insure all prep work is done when the flooding arrives."

If you have any questions about flood preparation, please call the State Fire Marshal's office at (402) 471-2027, or the Propane Association office at (402) 475-3996.

Flood-related resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov

- **Español infomación** –(Spanish language information):
- Para infomación de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos (For flood information in Spanish please use these resources):
- Website Resources - En Español
- [Regreso al hogar después de un huracán o una inundación](#)
[Cómo reparar su hogar inundado](#)
[Planificación y la Recuperación Después de un Desastre](#)
[Manual de Reclamación para Seguros Contra Inundaciones](#)
- Cruz Roja Americana <http://www.cruzrojaamericana.org/general.asp?SN=200&OP=216&SUOP=245>

State Response

Residents should stay tuned to local news and follow directions from local and state officials.

The Coast Guard restriction on recreational boats on the Missouri River along the Nebraska-Iowa border remains in effect.

Flood Hotline

A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454, will be staffed from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends**. The hotline is busy, please be patient.

Weather

For updated weather information weather: www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com

Railroad information toll-free telephone lines

Burlington Northern Santa Fe – 1-800-832-5452 select #3

Union Pacific Response Management Communications Center (RMCC) at 888-877-7267.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joint Information Center – (402) 996-3877 www.nwo.usace.army.mil email: MRJIC@usace.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency

If you are not sure if you are in flood-prone area, check out the FEMA map service center:

<http://msc.fema.gov> **Flood insurance claims** -- According to a FEMA official, existing flood insurance policy claims will be paid regardless of how the flooding was caused. For most new flood insurance policies there is a 30-day waiting period.

Local Health Departments

Every county in Nebraska is served by a local health department. A listing of health departments and the counties they serve is available at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm

Behavioral Health

Natural disasters often lead to prolonged emotional and physical stress which are common reactions when recovering from storm or flood damage. People should take care of themselves during this stressful time. Get plenty of rest. Stay connected with family and friends, and support each other. If stress is interfering with day-to-day life, it may be time to seek help. If you or someone you know is suffering from signs of stress due to flooding in your area, call the **NEMA Public Information Hotline** at **(855) 211-2453** or **(855) 211-2454**. The operators can provide you with information on mental health crisis counseling and other services.

Nebraska Department of Roads Information

Current flooding emergency road information is available from the Nebraska Department of Roads at: www.roads.ne.gov/flood/. Additional road closure information is available at: www.511.nebraska.gov. Citizens are encouraged to find alternate routes. Do not drive over any road that is covered with flood waters. Do not remove road closure barricades. Barricades are in place for your safety.

State Road closures:

- **I-29-** The Iowa Department of Transportation closed a section of I-29 north of Council Bluff. The closure affects I-29 from 25th Street at the northern edge of Council Bluffs to the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland. It's a 16-mile stretch of interstate.
- **I-680 west of I-29** in Iowa is closed due to floodwaters. A detour is being established that will start at the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland, continue east to the I-80/680 interchange and then southwest on I-80 to Council Bluffs.
- **Highway 12** – Due to water over the road, Hwy 12 is closed East of Niobrara from the East edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur. A west section of Hwy 12 is also closed from Verdel to approximately 3 miles West of Niobrara. West Hwy 12 traffic should take US Hwy 81, south to Hwy 84, then west on 84 to 84/13 junction, West on Hwy 13 the junction of 13/14 at Verdigre. Travel south on Hwy 14 to US Hwy 20, then west to the west junction of US281/20 located in O'Neill, then North on US281 to the junction of Hwy 12. Hwy 12 East traffic should travel South on US281 from the 281/12 junction to the junction of US20/US281, then East on US20 to the junction of US20/hwy14, then North on 14 to the junction of 14/13 at Verdigre. From Verdigre, East on Hwy 13 to the 13/84 junction, East on Hwy 84 to US 81, North on 81 to the junction of Hwy 12. Those traveling to Niobrara may take the North route on Hwy 14 from the 14/13 junction located at Verdigre..
- **I-680 going into Iowa** from Nebraska at exit 13. Traffic is being detoured south on U.S. 75 through Omaha to I-480
- **Highway 30** – Hwy 30 is closed from the Maxwell Viaduct to east of the North Platte Airport due to flooding.
- Westbound Detour Route is: South from Maxwell on S-56A (Maxwell Link) to I-80; I-80 to L-56G (Newberry Link); North on L-56G to Hwy 30. *Reverse this for the Eastbound Detour Route*
- **Highway 92** – closed from mile marker 164-203
- Intersection of Nebraska highways 12 and 14 near Niobrara
- **Highway 14** detour near Niobrara on county road 528 is soft in some areas and the speed limit has been reduced to 40 mph.
- **Burt/Washington Counties:** For residents east of 35 on P14 (Cottonwood Area) that all access will be denied as of 12:00 p.m., Sunday, June 12th. The road will closed sooner if the situation changes.

County Road 30 is expected to close today, Saturday, June 11. The detour that have been placed on Highway 133 are in anticipation of the closing of Highway 30 and 75, NOT I-29.

- Garden County: Road 199a is closed from Road 46 to Road 44.

Local street closures: (Not included on State 511 information system.)

South Sioux City:

- Riverview Drive east of Scenic Park Apartments will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- East 17th Street east of Arbor Acres will be closed will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- Foundry Road east of the Sioux City Foundry will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- West Third Street, west of Eighth Avenue is closed for the duration of the flooding
- Golf Road west of Elgin Avenue will be closed temporarily over the next four days.
- Golf Road east of Elgin will have traffic restrictions due to heavy machinery entering the road way

Evacuations

Be safe and listen to public officials. Please evacuate if told to do so.

- **Dakota County:** More than 100 Businesses expect to evacuate. Two mobile homes from the Ponca area were floating down the Missouri river and have sunk. There are possibly five more that will break free and could also float down the Missouri River.
- **Burt County:** Estimates of 160 to 200 homes will be evacuated along the Missouri River.
- **Washington County:** A total 150-180 people evacuated.
- **Richardson County:** The Red Cross has issued "Clean Up" kits to the county. One family evacuated.
- **Nemaha County:** Most residents that evacuate will stay with family and friends. There were some voluntary evacuations from low-land areas.
- **Cass County:** There were 25 evacuations at Lake WaConDa and eight along the Platte and Missouri rivers.
- **Sarpy County:** Iske Park and Elbow Bend had some voluntarily evacuations.
- **Dixon County:** 40-50 people evacuated from cabins along the river
- **Lincoln County:** Some voluntary evacuations
- **Thurston County:** There were 12 people evacuated from Macy
- **Boyd County:** Four people evacuated
- **Knox County:** Approximately 200 homes between Verdel and Niobrara have evacuated – all but 21 are secondary residences. One primary residence east of Niobrara.

Shelters open/ Red Cross

- Fort Calhoun – Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln Street.
- South Sioux City Middle School – 3625 G Street

For more information check www.redcross.org or call **1-800-RedCross** to find the chapter serving your area. Call **211** (human services helpline) to find out what resources are available; or visit the United Way of Midlands 211 website at <http://www.ne211.org> an additional number is **(402) 444-6666**.

Animal Health

Flood waters displace wild animals as well as humans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) warns people that wildlife may act abnormally due to the stress of displacement. As animals interact and compete for the same resources, diseases such as rabies have an increased chance of transmission. DHHS always recommends avoiding direct contact with wild animals; however, under these circumstances they may be in unexpected places and act more aggressively.

Flood waters may also displace reptiles such as snakes and turtles. Information on reptiles indigenous to Nebraska can be found at <http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/>.

Water Testing

Well owners should take the following steps if they believe their well will be impacted:

- Before taking the well out of service, store a supply of clean water;
- Disconnect the power supply for the well. Consult a Nebraska-licensed well driller or pump installer if help is needed;
- Perform actions necessary to make the well water-tight, including removing the well vent and replacing it with a water-tight plug, and sealing any visible joint openings with water-tight caulking or equivalent material;
- Cover the top of the well with a heavy-duty plastic trash bag or equivalent protective covering and tightly secure it, making it as water-tight as possible to keep out dirt, debris and contaminants.

Sealing won't eliminate the need for testing and possible disinfection, but it will provide the best chance for the well to come on-line quickly and minimize repair costs and maintenance.

Flood Clean Up Scams

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Insurance

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is the state agency to contact regarding flooding insurance. (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932. Flood insurance claims -- According to a FEMA official, flood insurance is available and policy claims will be covered regardless of how a flood is caused.

Fire Safety

The State Fire Marshal reminds citizens that if your power is out, and you need to use a generator, ensure your generator has been tested, approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits and continue to be cautious when there's a threat of lightning.

Phone Numbers

- Nebraska Flooding Hotline: Toll Free (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Nebraska Department of Insurance (877) 564-7323
- Iowa Flooding Response (515) 725-3231 or **Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985**
- South Dakota (605) 773-3132 or toll free at (877) 579-0015
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center (402) 996-3877

Web Sites

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website www.nema.nebraska.gov
- The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/flooding/
- Weather: www.weather.gov
- River Levels: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>
- NEMA on Face book: <http://www.facebook.com/nema.page>
- Nebraska Department of Roads www.511.nebraska.gov
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website - www.nwo.usace.army.mil
- Red Cross: www.redcrossomaha.org
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension: <http://www.extension.org/category/floods>

Twitter Hashtags:

- [#omahaflood](#) [#2011MoRivFlood](#) [#MissouriRiver](#)
- Douglas County Joint Information Center
https://twitter.com/DouglasCty_JIC
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Joint-Information-Center/170924139635686>
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
<https://twitter.com/#!/OmahaUSACE> <http://www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE>
- Red Cross Heartland Chapter
<https://twitter.com/omaharedcross>
- FEMA Blog
<http://blog.fema.gov/search/label/Floods>

County Updates:

Several counties have issued declarations; Knox, Dakota, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Lincoln, Boyd, Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Richardson, Scotts Bluff and Otoe.

Missouri River — County Updates

- **Boyd County:** Private wells are being contaminated in the areas that are flooding in Sunshine Bottoms which has been evacuated. There are concerns about phone service due to no cell service near the river and now numerous phone lines are under water.
- **Burt County:** A Public meeting in Tekamah drew 270 individuals.
- **Cedar County:** Received first information of river coming out of its banks near Aten.

- **Cass County:** The City of Plattsmouth waste water treatment plant began taking silt and apparent river water into the plant. City officials have deemed it prudent to begin full wastewater (sewage) bypass as soon as possible.
- **Dakota County:** South Sioux City: Six National Guard troops will soon be monitoring levees. Water, wastewater and storm water systems have been protected from the floods to ensure continued service. These efforts include; sandbagging and/or building structures around the one drinking water lift station, four wastewater lift stations and installing pumps to pump storm water from protected parts of the city to the Missouri river.
- **Dixon County:** The emergency manager is reporting that there are 40-50 summer seasonal homes that were evacuated, but they are secondary residences and will not require sheltering needs.
- **Douglas County:** Areas affected by flooding are: NP Dodge Park, Freedom Park, Lewis and Clark landing and the waste water treatment plant.
- **Knox County:** There are 180 vacation homes and 20 permanent residents between Verdel and Niobrara that have voluntarily evacuated. In addition, one home east of Niobrara has been evacuated. No shelter has been needed and no long-term shelter needs are anticipated.
- **Nemaha County:** Sandbagging operations are nearly completed.
- **Otoe County:** Sandbagging continues at the Nebraska City waste water and Omaha Public Power District plant.
- **Richardson County:** Volunteers are now working with city and county personnel to place sandbags. They are still in the process of making preparation to protect the water system. The county emergency manager sent a disaster declaration to NEMA Monday, June 6.
- **Thurston County:** **The Macy High School shelter site has been changed to an information center that will be opened from 8am-7pm. Shelters remain on standby in: Cass, Sarpy, Dixon, Cedar, Thurston, Washington and Pottawattamie counties.** All current Red Cross sheltering sites for those affected by recent flooding are below.
- **Washington:** Power was turned off to flooded areas and several roads are closed

Platte River — County Updates

- **Lincoln County:** Areas affected by flooding and road closures are Highway 30 east, North River Road at North Platte and north of Sutherland, North Airport road, East Long School Road , Highway 83 and areas east and north of North Platte.
- **Scotts Bluff County** declared a emergency because of flooding throughout the county. Areas affected by flooding include: Western Engineering Sandpit, Riverside Park, Trails West, Monument Pathways, south Mitchell, Westmoor area, Broadway businesses, south of west Overland and west of Avenue 'B', and south Morrill. Emergency managers continue to monitor the river around Terrytown.

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